the assessment studies to know the extent and the full potential of the gas deposits.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

**Natural gas deal with Iran**

2355. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter relating to the implementation of $ 22 billion liquefied natural gas deal, was discussed with Iranian Government during his recent visit to that country; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas has not visited Iran, recently.

(b) Does not arise.

**Dependence of Navratna oil companies on foreign assistance**

†2356. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many oil companies with Navratna status in the country are dependent on the assistance of foreign companies for production of crude oil and natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of these domestic companies;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these domestic companies are earning annual dividend regularly for the last few years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.